

Attending: Luke Garvey, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Stapley Emberling, Steve Grathwohl, Andy Gundell, Ravi Sankar, Beth Cliff, Wendy Levy, Deb Garskof, and Rev. John Morehouse (ex-officio)

Absent: None

Guests: None

This month's Board meeting is brought to you by Policy (Priority END) 1.1.1. [Policy 1.1: "We INSPIRE: TUCW is where the lives of children, youth and adults of all ages are..."] Priority End # 1.1.1: "...Deepened spiritually in worship that guides them in individual and communal responses to the sacred; enriched through expanded religious understanding, and uplifted, sustained and transformed by living out UU principles."

Agenda/Topic	Discussion	Motions & Votes (M/S/V); Actions
Opening	Luke Garvey called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and the chalice was lit.	
Check-In	Meeting attendees checked in.	
Consent Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minutes: June 15, 2021, BOT Meeting 2. Review of Board Covenant 	M/S/V: Motion to approve the 2 items on the Consent Agenda. Passed.
Administrative Business	<p>Deb Garskof has agreed to train with Stapley Emberling on tasks and responsibilities of the Secretary.</p> <p>Discussion of the Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy and the Communications Policy, which all current Board members are required to sign annually.</p> <p>As preparation for this meeting, all Board members had agreed to review the Schedule of Meeting Duties and the Draft of the Annual Agenda Planning Calendar that were in the meeting packet. Due to the overfull agenda schedule for this meeting, there was no time for a full Board discussion of these items. If anyone has questions about the Planning Calendar or the Schedule of Meeting Duties, please contact the Secretary.</p>	Board members agreed to sign the forms in the back of the Policy Manual, scan the pages, and send the signed pages (as email attachments) to the Secretary.
Information Reports (IR)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Steve Grathwohl gave the Treasurer's Report for September. He stressed that this will be a transitional year at TUCW regarding the budget and the financial outlook for the future. While we are in good standing with our Endowment and our cash reserves, changes must be made to either cut expenses or raise revenues for long-term sustainability. The report is posted on the website and on Dropbox. 2. Ravi Sankar gave an update on the progress of the Name Change Committee. He reported that there have now been 5 Town Hall 	

	meetings to discuss a name change with the Congregation and to listen to ideas and feedback. One more Town Hall meeting is planned for later this fall. At the conclusion of that last Town Hall, we hope to have narrowed the possibilities to a single name that can then be proposed and put to a vote at 2 consecutive Member Meetings.	
Minister's Report	Rev Morehouse reported on Priority END 1.1.1: <i>"...Deepened spiritually in worship that guides them in individual and communal responses to the sacred; enriched through expanded religious understanding, and uplifted, sustained and transformed by living out UU principles."</i> (See the Sr Minister's September 2021 report on the Website.)	The Monitoring Committee (S Grathwohl, D Garskoff, R Sankar) agreed to give Rev John 3 weeks' notice with the topic for his next report for each upcoming Board meeting. Board members will make a stronger effort to improve Board visibility this year.
Retreat Reflections	It was agreed that this year's Board Retreat was efficiently managed and information-packed, having covered the topics of PBG; Shared Board Responsibility; Church Finance 101 & Balanced Budget; Sustainability; Current COVID issues; Membership; TUCW Identity; Construction Update; Linkages, COM, Communications; Tech Team Update; SMART Goals; and setting the Priority ENDS and Board goals and assignments for the fiscal year. However, a desire was expressed to add more fun and camaraderie to the event, with team-building exercises and ice-breakers to help Board members get to know each other better. Suggestions were made to hold several more "mini-retreats" throughout the year, with generative discussions and activities (for fun), as well as informal Board dinners and games.	Thank you to our Retreat Planning Committee: Luke Garvey, Wendy Levy, Deb Garskof, and Steve Grathwohl!
Board Goals 2021/2022	Board members volunteered for assignments for the year: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda Committee: L Garvey, S Emberling, B Cliff, C Onyemelukwe 2. Communications & Linkages: B Cliff, W Levy 3. Monitoring Team: S Grathwohl, D Garskof, R Sankar 4. SOCE (Succession; Onboarding; "Cookbook"; Education): L Garvey, S Emberling, A Gundell 5. Name Change: R Sankar, C Onyemelukwe, L Garvey, B Cliff, W Levy 	
Priority ENDS for 2021/2022	The ENDS selected by the Board to be TUCW's primary focus for this year are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1: ...Deepened spiritually in worship that guides them in individual and communal responses to the sacred; enriched through expanded religious understanding, and uplifted, sustained and transformed by living out UU principles. 1.2.4: ...We become a sustainable, engaged, growing Congregation 	M/S/V: Motion to accept Policies 1.1.1, 1.2.4, and 1.3.5 as this year's Priority ENDS. Passed. It was stressed that, although the Board selected just 3 ENDS for its primary focus this year, ALL our ENDS are important goals that we intend to work toward. Last year, our primary focus was on 1.2.4, which is essential to our sustainability, and on 1.3.3 ("We live out our

	<p>comprised of all generations.</p> <p>1.3.5: ...Heal the planet (minimize our impact on the Earth and work to heal our planet).</p>	<p>commitment to promoting social justice causes, especially racial justice and gender equity”). TUCW will NOT drop the ball on 1.3.3. However, since the Racial Justice Taskforce and the Gender Equity team, as well as multiple Social Justice outreach projects, were so successful last year and made exemplary progress, in spite of the challenges of the Pandemic, the Board felt it was time to turn much-needed attention to climate change issues with #1.3.5. We expect to keep up the momentum and energy on all our social justice fronts.</p>
Generative Discussion	The discussion on Membership was deferred until next month, due to time constraints.	
Organ Discussion	The Board requested that Rev Morehouse ask the Music Committee to prepare a report for the Board to review at the November Board meeting, outlining all options, costs, and any alterations to the stage area (or re-prioritizing of current construction projects) that a potential replacement for the organ would require, along with their proposal. The Board will review the proposal and discuss options with the Music Committee in November. As a reminder, no final decisions about an organ will be made without the approval of the Congregation.	
Executive Session	Any Board member may request to move the meeting to an Executive Session at this time in the meeting, if necessary. This would then become time for Board-only discussion. (Please notify the Secretary ahead of time if an Executive Session will be called for so that time may be properly allocated.) No Executive Session was called for at this meeting.	
Check-Out and Assignments	Members reported out and clarified their individual assignments to be handled before our next meeting.	.
Process Observer	A Gundell commented on how we did as a Board tonight.	
Closing Reflection	C Onyemelukwe shared an inspirational reading.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.	Meeting assignments for the monthly meetings are posted in Dropbox and are listed on the agenda.
	Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 19, 2021	

Respectfully submitted,
Stapley Emberling,

The Unitarian Church in Westport

